

Invasive Species Control

WHIP is the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program

WHIP funds are available to create, restore, or enhance wildlife habitat that has been degraded by invasive exotic vegetative species. Invasive species are plants that reproduce rapidly, spread over large areas of the landscape and have few, if any, natural controls, such as herbivores and diseases, to keep them in check. These species often out-compete native vegetation. This threatens local fauna, which has evolved to depend on the local native vegetation for food and shelter.

Cost-share is available for:

- Mechanical, chemical, or biological control of vegetative invasive species.
- Native plant materials, planting, seeding, lime and fertilizer, and site preparation needed to re-vegetate areas that have been cleared of invasive species.
- Cost-sharing may be limited to the initial removal of the invasive species. This may include treatment in the first year with a follow-up treatment the second year as outlined in the conservation plan.

Cost-share is NOT authorized for:

- Repeated control of invasive exotic plant populations.
- Treatment of areas where success is unlikely because of the severity of the invasive species.

Cost-share info: 75% of the actual cost of implementing habitat improvement projects can be provided to landowners by NRCS.

Length of the project: Plans will be developed for a minimum of five years. All practices must be maintained for the length of the plan.

How to apply: Contact your local NRCS Service Center for an application or visit our website at www.nj.nrcs.usda.gov



Tidal marsh that has been treated to control the growth of the invasive species *Phragmites australis*.

NRCS Service Centers

Freehold (732)462-1079X3

Serving Mercer, Middlesex & Monmouth

Frenchtown (908)782-4614X3

Serving Hunterdon, Somerset, & Union

Hackettstown (908)852-2576 X3

Serving Sussex, Warren & Morris

Hainesport (609)267-0811 X 3

Serving Burlington, Camden, & Ocean

Vineland (856)205-1225X3

Serving Atlantic, Cape May, & Cumberland

Woodstown (856)769-1126X3

Serving Gloucester & Salem

Morris Plains (973)538-1552

Serving Bergen, Hudson, Essex, Passaic, Morris & Union

Examples of Invasive Species in NJ



Purple loosestrife
(*Lythrum salicaria*)

This perennial herb has a square, woody stem usually covered by downy hair and is found in wet freshwater meadows, tidal and non-tidal marshes, river and stream banks, and along pond edges. Purple loosestrife can rapidly replace native vegetation, which threatens endangered species and provides little wildlife habitat. Small infestations can be pulled by hand. Chemical herbicide treatments are also effective. Several beetles are also used as a form of biological control.



Common Reed
(*Phragmites australis*)

Phragmites is a perennial plant that inhabits wet areas such as brackish and freshwater marshes, riverbanks, lakeshores, ditches and dredge spoil areas. It is thought that both native and introduced forms occur in the U.S. Common reed displaces native plants and forms monocultures. This aggressive plant spreads by seed and by vegetative growth. Although very difficult to manage, various control methods such as cutting, burning and chemical herbicide application can be used to treat *Phragmites*.



Tree-of-Heaven
(*Ailanthus altissima*)

Tree-of-Heaven is a common deciduous tree of urban areas and disturbed sites. It reproduces from both seed and root sprouts. This plant grows rapidly and forms dense thickets that displace native species. Both mechanical and chemical methods can be effective as control methods. Mechanical methods include cutting, girdling, and hand pulling. Chemical treatments include foliar, cut stump, and basal bark methods.



Multiflora Rose (*Rosa multiflora*)

Multiflora rose is a common pasture weed in the northeast. This plant is extremely prolific and successfully invades pastures and other unplowed lands, crowding out existing vegetation and creating dense, impenetrable thickets. It is a thorny, perennial shrub with arching stems. *R. multiflora* is very adaptable. It is able to grow in a wide range of soil, moisture, and light conditions. Mechanical management includes repeated mowing several times a year for 2-4 years. Complete removal of scattered populations is possible, but all roots must be removed. Chemical herbicides can be applied to freshly cut stems. Foliar application can also be applied, but take care to not damage non-target species.



Autumn Olive (*Eleagnus umbellata*)

Autumn olive is a deciduous shrub that can reach 20 feet in height. The stems, leaves and buds have a dense covering of silvery scales. This plant was first planted as an ornamental for wildlife habitat, as windbreaks and to restore deforested and degraded areas. Autumn olive is tolerant of drought and survives in a variety of soil and moisture conditions. It is capable of fixing nitrogen in its roots, enabling it to grow on bare mineral soils. A common invader of fields, open woodlands, and disturbed areas, autumn olive out-competes and displaces native plants. This plant spreads mainly by seeds dispersed by birds. Control can be effective by cutting in combination with herbicide application.